

What's New in the MPDC

AUGUST 12, 2002

MPDC STEPS UP EFFORTS TO COMBAT PROSTITUTION

In addition to targeting johns for arrest, the MPDC, in conjunction with the US Attorney's Office and community-based organizations, continues to work at educating and rehabilitating these offenders through a diversion program known as the "John School." To learn more about this unique program, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/john_school.shtm

Four years ago, street prostitution was a blatant and highly visible crime problem in far many DC neighborhoods. Through a concerted effort with community leaders and residents, the MPDC managed to dramatically reduce the problem over the years. But in recent months, street prostitutes have been making a comeback in some areas. To combat the problem, the MPDC is once again beefing up its anti-prostitution resources. In addition to the eight-member Prostitution Unit, which operates out of Regional Operations Command-Central, the Department is deploying an additional dozen or so officers to anti-prostitution duties each night. Some of these officers are working in uniform; others are plainclothes. They are targeting both prostitutes and johns for arrest in a variety of neighborhoods, with a particular focus on communities in the First, Third, Fifth and Sixth police districts. To report a prostitution problem or learn more about the MPDC's anti-prostitution efforts, contact Sgt. Mark Gilkey at (202) 727-4450.

SUMMER YOUTH FEST 2002 IS "TAKING IT TO THE STREETS" THIS MONTH

The MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention coordinates numerous crime prevention and self-improvement programs for young people throughout the city. For more information about this unit, call (202) 727-7752, or click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/ood_yvp.shtm

The MPDC's Office of Youth Violence Prevention is "taking it to the streets" this month, with a series of health and safety awareness events targeting high-risk and at-risk young people in all four quadrants of DC. Summer Youth Fest 2002 began on Thursday, August 8, at the Greenleaf Recreation Center in Southwest, and continues through September 6, at Banneker Field in Northwest. All eight events in the series are free and

open to the public. Each event brings together city agencies and other service providers from local faith-based, community-based and grassroots organizations that serve youth, young adults and families in DC. Among the services to be provided are HIV/AIDS testing, immunizations and vaccinations, teen pregnancy awareness, career and employment opportunities, military recruitment, mentoring and apprenticeship programs, alternative lifestyles counseling and violence prevention awareness. In addition, there will be entertainment and games at each event. For a complete schedule of Summer Youth Fest 2002 events, go to:

The MPDC is pleased to announce the creation of the Joseph K. Smith Youth Leadership Award to honor an outstanding DC youth who has made a difference in the community. For more information about the award and submitting a nomination, contact Michael D. Scott in Human Services, (202) 727-4771.

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

CHIEF RAMSEY THANKS RESIDENTS, POLICE OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2002

Thousands of residents in communities throughout DC took to the streets on Tuesday, August 6, as part of the 19th annual National Night Out against crime. Highlights of the evening included a festive kickoff ceremony at the Brentwood Recreation Center in Northeast, where Mayor Williams, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and others reminded residents that fighting crime is a year-round commitment for police and residents alike. Later, the Mayor and Chief Ramsey joined Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham at a block party outside the soon-to-be-opened 4D-1 Substation at 750 Park Road, NW. Other events included a community candlelight vigil, spearheaded by residents and religious leaders in PSA 102, that focused on criminal hot spots in the neighborhood. East of the river, large events were held at the CW Harris Elementary School and the Fort Stanton Recreation Center. Chief Ramsey thanked all of those who organized and participated in NNO events this year, and he encouraged everyone to keep up the momentum by attending PSA meetings and taking part in other community policing activities.

As part of its follow-up report to the National Association of Town Watch, the organizers of National Night Out, the MPDC is looking for any photographs, programs or other materials concerning individual NNO events in DC. If you have anything to share, please contact Diana Bahr, Office of Corporate Communications, at (202) 727-4630 or e-mail her at dbahr@mpdc.org.

YOUTH DETECTIVE NAMED "OFFICER OF THE MONTH" FOR WORKING TO PROTECT CHILDREN

Sometimes individual police officers can make a big difference in unlikely places. Such is the case of MPDC Detective Richard Adams, of the Youth and Preventive Services Division. Detective Adams has been relentless in pushing for tougher laws to protect children. Until recently, for example, the kidnapping of a child by a non-custodial parent was a misdemeanor in DC, and for the most part, DC would not extradite suspects back to the District if they fled. Furthermore, the FBI would not enter warrants in the cases into NCIC (National Crime Information Center), the nationwide repository of information on wanted and missing persons. Detective Adams played an important role in addressing these shortcomings. He testified before the DC Council on a law that would toughen the penalties and provide for extradition in parental kidnapping cases, which in turn brought media attention to the matter. He also worked with the FBI to begin entering warrants in these cases into NCIC. He has followed up his advocacy efforts with action. To date, Detective Adams has located and returned two children who have been missing for three years and extradited one adult offender involved in parental kidnappings. For his efforts, Detective Adams was named the Departmental Officer of the Month at the August 7 CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards luncheon held at the Holiday Inn on the Hill. You can read more about Detective Adams's efforts, along with the stories of all of this month's award winners, at:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2002/08.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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